

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 3710
June 14, 2005

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
HEYREND, Tim – Division of Water Resources
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks and Recreation
CLARK, Robert – DEQ/Division of Air Quality
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
WILDE, Kenneth – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
CHRISTY, Kim – School & Institutional Trust Lands

Others Present:

FROST, Kim – Department of Natural Resources
WRIGHT, Carolyn – GOPB/Public Lands Policy Group
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
COTTAM, Brian – GOPB/Public Lands
HANSEN, Michael – GOPB/Public Lands

Kim Frost called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes/Election

Corrections to the minutes:

Karl Kappe made a motion to approve the April 12, 2005 minutes. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with a few minor changes.

II. Special Presentations/Discussions

Utah Lake Comprehensive Management Plan, Karl Kappe, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

The bed of Utah Lake is state-owned sovereign land administered by the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL). Sovereign lands are managed under multiple use sustained yield principles, and the Public Trust Doctrine. The Public Trust Doctrine establishes the right of the public to use and enjoy sovereign lands, waters and resources for a variety of uses protected under the doctrine.

Lands subject to the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) are lakebed lands where the upland boundary has been established. Disputed lands have not been included in the plan.

Scoping provides an opportunity for the public to identify issues to be addressed in the plan. Scoping comments are welcome through June 30, 2005. Comments are due to RDCC by June 24, 2005. A scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2005, at 6:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building, in Provo, Utah. Comments that relate to management of the

lakebed are the issues to which the DFFSL can best respond. DFFSL may refer other issues to the appropriate agency or organization.

The issues identified by the public and management concerns identified by DFFSL will be addressed in a draft CMP. The draft will include alternatives to address the planning issues, and a brief analysis of the alternatives. The draft will be distributed for a 45-day comment period. The tentative date for publication of the draft is mid-August.

The final CMP will identify the selected/preferred alternative, provide the rationale for the selected alternative, and all comments will be addressed with a response. The final CMP will include an implementation schedule, which may vary if legislative appropriations are necessary for plan implementation.

A mailing list of persons interested in receiving the draft CMP is being maintained by the DFFSL. You may request to be added to the mailing list. For additional information about the CMP visit the website or contact Karl Kappe. Scooping comments may be sent:

Online: www.ffsl.utah.gov

Send an email message: karlkappe@utah.gov

Call: (801) 538-5555

Mail to: Karl Kappe

Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

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The committee discussed several issues including transportation and utility corridors, dredging, lake levels, threatened and endangered species, restrictions on the sale of public lands, wetlands, water quality, geologic hazards and trails.

Karl Kappe provided background information regarding negotiations with landowners to establish a sovereign land boundary and resolve land ownership of the lakebed. Approximately 80% of the shoreline has been negotiated. Additional public access points have been negotiated with individual landowners. Karl Kappe displayed a planning unit map with public access and existing leases.

III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, announced that the division has noted an increase in mining, oil and gas applications.

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, announced that rulemaking associated with House Bill 146 continues. Wildland urban-interface and other fire suppression issues will be included in county planning efforts to address fire risk, defensible space, building zoning requirements, minimum subdivision standards, ways to address increasing costs of fire suppression and other standards. The task force recommended wildland fire fighter training

meet national standards and standards for county fire suppression equipment be developed. Another recommendation was to provide financial assistance to the counties to meet these recommendations. Counties must implement minimum standards to be eligible for the state to cover over expenditures for fire suppression costs.

DFFSL has been meeting with counties to get their input on the rule-making process. Some comments have been received regarding physical fitness and training requirements. Draft minimum standards for training and certification have been developed.

State Parks and Recreation may interface with the DFFSL (contact Dave Dalrymple to look at implications of this on park facilities) to work on fuel load reduction efforts around state park facilities such as Wasatch Mountain State Park and Antelope Island.

DFFSL has received building block funding from the legislature for open space. Brian Cottam recommended that Karl Kappe contact John Bennett for more information. The Quality Growth Commission would like additional funding to leverage. Land and Water Conservation Funding is limited this year.

Robert Clark, Division of Air Quality, reported that a four corners commission has been set up to address air emission issues related to oil and gas mining. Existing and proposed power plants may contribute to the air quality issues in wilderness areas. Pollution levels are increasing each year. Colorado is concerned. Considering putting limits on the small pumping engines being used on the wells to reduce emissions. The outcome of this situation may be seen in the Uinta Basin within a few years. A Memorandum of Understanding between the four corner states, the EPA (Regions 8, 9 and 6) and the National Park Service. The EPA may be establishing a new model rule regarding well engine emissions to control emissions and reduce impacts.

Susan Zarekarizi, State Parks and Recreation, announced that they will purchase property in the Green River area soon since the contract to lease a building and parking lot from Green River City ends June 30, 2005. The division will sell property adjacent to the Jordan River by Bangertner Highway, which is part of the Utah Power and Light utility corridor.

Bill Schotthauer, Division of Water Rights, reported that the division is starting a monitoring system for water right applications via their website. Contact Bill Schotthauer at billschlotthauer@utah.gov to find out when this website will be available for access. New water rights documents are scanned and an email notification will be sent to anyone by registering on the website.

Ken Wilde, Division of Drinking Water, announced that drinking water well drilling has peaked. Centerfield, Utah is trying to find additional drinking water because high levels of nitrates have been identified. High levels are dangerous for infants. All water resources will require treatment in this valley.

Matthew Higdon, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), reported that the Vernal Resource Management Plan comment period has been extended until June 24, 2005. Comments may be received via facsimile or mail. The website will be available soon. Approximately 400

comment letters have been received. The Price BLM Field Office will send out a federal register notice regarding the West Tavaput area soon. The Bill Barrett Corporation is proposing to drill approximately 20 wells. One of the drills will be in a wilderness study area near the Green River in the Desolation Canyon area. Other RMP efforts are moving forward.

Matthew Higdon also reported that the BLM moved their offices to the Gateway, above the McGraph's Fish House.

Brian Cottam, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, announced that Daggett, Uinta, San Juan and Tooele counties that are currently using the county resource management planning tool kit. Millard and Iron counties are also planning to use the tool kit. Randy Johnson is consulting with four counties that have contracted with him to work on a wilderness legislative planning process. There is some overlap between the county tool kit and the wilderness planning process. Brian Cottam anticipates that the number of counties using the tool kit will double within a few months. Recently, direction from the Quality Growth Commission indicated the use of \$150,000 for critical lands planning money from the last legislative session. The funding will be used for county resource management planning and the critical lands planning tool kit. The governor's planning staff will work directly with counties to distribute this money via an application process. The planning staff will have flexibility to interact with counties to determining critical needs in distributing planning dollars.

The LeRay McAllister Open Space Conservation Fund has received 35 applications totaling 18 million dollars, only 3 million is available in the fund. The number of applications has increased to due the interest in open space. Full applications are due in six weeks. Individuals, local governments, non-profit organizations and agencies have submitted applications. Field trips to visit these projects will follow. More that half of the applications were received from the Wasatch Front and Cache Valley.

Michael Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources, announced that the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (10-year plan) was approved by the Wildlife Board and is currently being revised and will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service July 1, 2005. Utah will be the first state to submit. This document identifies species and habitats of greatest conservation need, identifies threats to these species and identifies actions for implementation.

Kim Frost, Public Lands Policy Group, reported that the comment period for the Nevada groundwater project has been extended until August 1, 2005. A timeline has not been announced for comments to the U.S. Forest Service on the roadless rule.

Lynn Stephens is the Director, John Harja and Steve Boyden are Deputy Directors, of the Public Lands Policy Group. The directors, Carolyn Wright, Val Payne, Kim Frost and the RS2477 attorneys will be located at the State Office Building. RDCC is under the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and will be managed by the Public Lands Policy Group. Richard Allis is the acting State Planning Coordinator.

Brian Cottam is the Planning Section Coordinator for rural land planning. A coordinating committee similar to RDCC will used to coordinate local government actions. Mike Hansen is

creating a Community Development Coordinating Committee to serve as a clearinghouse for community planning and development projects to promote coordination of projects and activities outside Resource Development Coordinating Committees' review process. A website may be used to list city and county projects.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

A handout of the current status of the RDCC Project Management System was provided to the committee.

Karl Kappe an expedited review was approved for Project Management Library #5307, West Rozel Oil, Gas and Hydrocarbon Lease Offering III by June 23, 2005. No significant comments were received on the previous two leasing packages. DFFSL anticipates sending out a simultaneous filing package on July 1, 2005, for West Rozel.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:05 a.m. The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 3710.